

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 112 (2001)¹ on follow-up action to be taken on the Conference “Cities and Regions: Cultural Diversity – a Precondition for a United Europe” (Innsbruck, 11-12 December 2000)

The Congress,

1. Having regard to:

- a.* the Innsbruck Declaration adopted on 13 December 2000 by the participants in the Conference “Cities and Regions: Cultural Diversity – a Precondition for a United Europe”;
 - b.* the study prepared by the Congress’s expert on “Competences and practices in European local and regional cultural policy” (published as No. 69 in the CLRAE’s Studies and Texts series), which served as the basis for the Conference proceedings;
 - c.* the record of the Conference proceedings;
 - d.* the major disparities in terms of the means at the disposal of European cities and regions for implementing cultural policies;
2. Invites the cities and regions of Europe to:
- a.* increase contacts so as to broaden their co-operation and solidarity networks in the cultural sector;
 - b.* contribute to the understanding, the recognition of, and the interaction between, the diverse cultures which are Europe’s great asset;
 - c.* develop interregional and transfrontier co-operation in the cultural sphere by continuing to promote initiatives such as the European cultural routes and Euroregions;
 - d.* take action to ensure that culture remains, or once again becomes, a driving force for the development of our local and regional communities;
 - e.* promote intercultural dialogue to help people learn to live together;
 - f.* set up appropriate funding bodies to foster the emergence of new talent in the various cultural sectors;
 - g.* adapt their cultural policies to the various audiences and social groups, and in particular to:
 - i.* promote young people’s and children’s municipal councils;

- ii.* introduce specific measures for young people, including steps to promote innovative arts education, appropriate pricing and programming of entertainment, and the establishment of new cultural facilities;
 - iii.* encourage creativity in the different forms of art;
 - iv.* preserve regional and minority languages and cultures, as an essential frame of reference for identity purposes;
 - v.* promote immigrants’ cultures and languages to enable them to keep their roots and share their culture while becoming integrated into our societies;
 - h.* take greater advantage of the new technologies to improve the supply of information to the public and find new ways for people to participate in community life;
 - i.* bear in mind the scope for job creation in the cultural sphere, particularly in sectors associated with tourism, leisure activities, the media and heritage enhancement;
 - j.* give their urban policies a cultural dimension by:
 - i.* taking account of the European Urban Charter;
 - ii.* improving planning of local cultural amenities, gearing them to the varied social fabric of the different neighbourhoods;
 - iii.* providing adequate support for existing grassroots organisations and educational, social and tourist services;
 - iv.* revitalising urban neighbourhoods;
 - v.* encouraging residents to take an active part in creative artistic endeavour;
 - k.* provide moral, material and financial support to grassroots organisations, foundations and other bodies representing citizens active in the cultural, social and educational sectors which help:
 - to revitalise the social fabric of a neighbourhood or region;
 - to combat unemployment, poverty and social exclusion;
 - to foster intercultural understanding and co-operation;
 - l.* assign greater importance to culture in projects submitted to the European Commission for Community funding under the structural funds and, in particular, the Interreg programmes;
 - m.* reduce considerably the amount of violence which is shown at present on television channels and ensure that more humane values should be portrayed in the mass media;
3. Invites the elected representatives of Europe’s major metropolises and megalopolises to introduce policies offering the general public better access to the cultural institutions and amenities (such as opera houses, concert halls, museums) whose concentration in these cities give them their prestige, particularly through appropriate transport and pricing policies;

4. Instructs its Committee on Culture and Education to:

a. take action on the proposals made at the Innsbruck Conference, particularly those relating to:

i. the promotion of existing networks for cultural co-operation between cities and regions;

ii. the creation of new cultural partnerships between local and regional authorities in central and eastern Europe and other European cities and regions;

iii. the creation, with the support of the Georgian authorities, of a centre for documentation, research and exchange on the cultural heritage of old cities and regions of Europe and Asia. This centre will be in Tbilisi (Georgia) which is a crossroads for meetings and dialogue between these two cultures;

b. organise further meetings, in co-operation with the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC), on changes in the cultural policies of Europe's cities and regions, and involve artists and culture professionals in these events;

c. investigate the possibility of establishing a means of pooling the experiences of European cities and regions, particularly in the areas of:

– cultural responsibilities;

– the management of cultural diversity.

1. Debated by the Congress and adopted on 31 May 2001, 3rd Sitting (see Doc. CG (8) 9, draft resolution presented by Ms V. Dirksen and Mr T. Souladze, rapporteurs).